

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 14th September 2023

Present: Chairman Steve Brown, Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr David Corney, Cllr Peter Rose, Cllr Liz Yuille, RFO Clifford Bosley, District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye, County Councillor Peter Sudbury.

In attendance: Martin Elliff (clerk) and 5 members of the public.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2023/130 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2023/131 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Mark Thompson was proposed by Cllr Yuille and seconded by Cllr Corney. Agreed.

2023/132 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Nick Caw, the chairman of the Village Hall Committee was present. He had met with Cllr Rose to discuss the management of the new village hall and the transition from the old to the new. He proposed that he drafts a business plan to be presented at the November PC meeting. Agreed.
- The chairman had met with Tanya Ellis, the administrator of the village allotments in August. There are four people on the waiting list for plots and the Community Hub planning application requires that at least two additional plots are available. The plots at Ackings are very overgrown and need to be cleared and a water supply provided. Residents Catherine Harrison and Prew Bowtell who have plots at Ackings were present and said that there needs to be a balance between clearing the area and preserving the wildlife habitats. They also suggested that rules are needed to ensure that new tenants manage their plots appropriately. The chairman will arrange a meeting with Tanya Ellis and Geoff Carter, the previous administrator, to define what needs to be done.

2023/133 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Bolton declared his interest as treasurer of Long Wittenham Athletic Club.

2023/134 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2023.

2023/135 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- The clerk reported that he had written to the Land Registry asking for confirmation of the ownership of the strip of land next to the footpath behind Westfield Road. There has been no response to date.
- Cllr Corney had contacted OCC about the river bank near Ward's Field. They are not interested in partially funding a repair and said that photographic evidence suggests that the bank has not deteriorated much in two years.
- The chairman reported that the hedges at the front of the school have been trimmed and the school's contractors will be doing more work.
- The chairman and Cllr Bolton have identified an appropriate verge reinforcement for the lay-by at Bodkins which will cost approximately £400. Approved.

2023/136 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

Cllr Casey-Rerhaye also advised that the Housing Land Supply is currently 4.2 years. It is hoped that despite this, the village's Neighbourhood Development Plan will protect it from speculative development.

She had also circulated the link to the Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan consultation.

2023/137 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Sudbury is arranging a meeting with Chris Brotherton of Thomas Homes and an OCC schools officer to discuss issues over building requirements and form entry size for the new primary school.

He has had discussions with an OCC highways officer about the Long Wittenham to Clifton Hampden cyclepath. Because the site is not 'listed' as a potential project no officer can be allocated to it, despite the land being made available by the landowners. He has suggested that an officer could be funded from his grant fund.

The HIF1 planning application is now going to inquiry before a planning inspector and the secretary of state will make the final decision. Cllr Sudbury expects the plan to be approved. Cllr Rose asked that he keeps the council informed of progress.

2023/138 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P23/S2523/DIS	Land to the north east of Didcot	NRR
P23/S2701/DIS	Land at Lady Grove Didcot	NRR
P23/S2811/HH	Briarwood Northfield Lane LW	NSV
P23/S2927/HH	52 Saxons Heath LW	NSV

2023/139 COMMUNITY HUB

Cllr Rose reported:

The planning application consultation ended on 25th August. Thomas Homes has responded to the few issues raised. Responses are still awaited from OCC Highways, and on the viability assessment and the S106 Heads of Terms. SODC has extended the deadline for the decision to 29th September.

2023/140 CIL PROJECTS

The working party to discuss potential CIL projects met on 25th July. The notes from the meeting are attached in Appendix B. Approved.

Quotes for resurfacing Bodkins and The Crescent had been obtained and circulated. The chairman recommended the quotation from Toppesfield of £19,300. Agreed. The work is expected to be carried out on 25th September.

The chairman also recommended that £17,500 is allocated to Long Wittenham Athletic Club to complete the clubhouse extension. Agreed.

The clerk to draw down £36,800 from the CIL funds immediately. Approved.

The chairman and Cllr Corney will be meeting with OCC Traffic Engineer Jon Beale in the first week of October to discuss the extension of the speed limits. It may also be possible to install a SID (Speed Indication Device) sign like the one at Sires Hill. They will report back at the October PC meeting.

Cllr Rose has met with resident Claire Michellis, a landscape architect, with a view to her drawing up playground designs for Acklings and Bodkins. She will create the designs in conjunction with a playground equipment company. Agreed.

Actions:	Clerk to request the CIL funds draw down from SODC.
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2023/141 LONG WITTENHAM TO CLIFTON HAMPDEN CYCLE PATH

See the comments from Cllr Sudbury above.

Cllr Thompson asked if the land provided by the Buxton estate for the cyclepath could be used as a footpath until such time as the cyclepath is built. It would not run all the way to Clifton Hampden as the strip of land from the Gibbs estate is not yet formally agreed. A ramp would also be required at the village end to gain access to the path. The chairman and Cllr Corney will raise the issue of the ramp with Jon Beale at the October meeting. In the meantime, Cllrs Corney and Thompson will speak to Glen Pereira, the chairman of Clifton Hampden Parish Council, to discuss the Gibbs land.

2023/142 20MPH ZONE SPEED SURVEY

OCC has confirmed that it will be doing a survey on the Didcot Road between the zebra crossing and the traffic calming build-out in the next few weeks.

2023/143 THE GRANGE BARN

Cllr Casey-Rerhaye reported that she has been trying to get an update on this, but the officer responsible has been on holiday. She will continue to chase for information.

2023/144 ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE (ACV) – THE PLOUGH INN

The Plough Inn was designated an ACV by SODC in 2018. This will expire in December. It was agreed that the PC should apply for this again.

The chairman suggested that Ward's Field might also benefit from this designation.

Actions: Clerk to re-apply to SODC for ACV status for The Plough Inn.
Clerk and chairman to discuss criteria for ACV status for Ward's Field.

2023/145 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Rose attended the Village Hall Committee (VHC) AGM on 27th July. There were no significant issues. The committee meets quarterly and Cllr Rose agreed to attend the next meeting.

2023/146 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Westfield Play Area: It was suggested that the bushes in the middle of the area should be removed. Logs Unlimited have quoted £297 to do this. Agreed.
- Remembrance Day: Prew Bowtell advised that she has ordered the council wreath. It will cost £30. The chairman suggested that council make an additional £100 donation. Agreed (without setting a precedent). He also suggested that ex-service men are invited to attend the Remembrance Day service. He will draft a post for the website.
- Logs Unlimited: Cllr Corney asked the council to approve the quotation from Logs Unlimited for additional work which had been circulated. See Appendix C. Approved.
- Bulb Planting: Cllr Bolton had circulated details of bulb planting to take place over the Winter. Expected cost: £500. Approved.
- Community Speedwatch: Cllr Corney reported that the Speedwatch team want to recruit new members. An advert had appeared in Wittenham Events and will be posted to the website. He also asked the council to approve the purchase of Community Speedwatch signs to be put up at the entrances to the village. Cost: £164 plus shipping. Agreed.

Actions: Chairman to draft Remembrance Day post for the website.

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2023/147 MATTERS ARISING FROM CHAIRMAN

The chairman drew the attention of the council to the report on the Primary School that had appeared in The Bridge and which he had circulated.

2023/148 FINANCIAL REPORT

- The RFO advised that the External Auditors Certificate had been received at the end of August with only one minor comment. All the required financial documents for the year 2022-23 are now on the website.
- The RFO will be circulating half year accounts for the meeting in October.
- Expenditure during July

10/07/2023	Logs Unlimited Inv 230144	£1,905.75
17/07/2023	Bosley Expenses (Payroll)	£140.00
17/07/2023	Clerk's Salary July 2023	£336.73
14/07/2023	Brown Expenses (Footpath signs)	£68.82
28/07/2023	Grant 018 Long Wittenham Pre-School	£1,049.00
	July Expenditure Total	£3,500.30
- Expenditure during August

07/08/2023	Logs Unlimited Inv 230205	£458.04
21/08/2023	Clerk's Salary August 2023	£336.53
30/08/2023	Moore Inv 319358 (Audit)	£252.00
	August Expenditure Total	£1,046.57

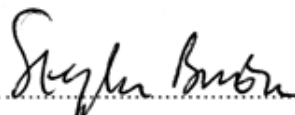
2023/149 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Prew Bowtell said that The Bridge has financial problems and asked if the PC could help. She was advised to tell Clare Owen, the editor of the magazine, to submit a grant application form.

Meeting Closed at 9:50pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th October 2023

Signed:



Date:

19-10-2023

APPENDIX A

District Councillor Report September 2023 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

New grant fund for nature

We have set aside £50,000 to award to organisations who wish to carry out projects to enhance our wildlife and encourage public access to green areas.

In a new partnership with Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), the money will be given as grants through TOE's Local Environment Fund to help boost local nature recovery.



efforts and reduce the impacts of climate change. Community groups, town and parish councils, charities and non-profit organisations are invited to apply to TOE for funds to help look after South Oxfordshire's green places.

Grants ranging between £1,000 and £15,000 can be used for tree and hedgerow planting or restoring community orchards, ponds, and nature-rich meadows. Grants could also be used to improve access to nature for the public to enjoy and learn from, for example replacing stiles with gates for better accessibility and/or improving pathways.

The new fund uses money from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid by developer contributions. Early applications are encouraged, so any South Oxfordshire based group involved in protecting and restoring their local environment should contact TOE to find out more.

www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk/local-environment-fund. The first deadline application deadline is 2 October 2023, then 8 January 2024. Submissions close at midday.

To check that your project idea meets TOE's funding criteria, contact Rachel Sanderson, Local Environment Fund grant administrator admin@trustforoxfordshire.org.uk and 01865 407003

Award nomination for Building Control

The councils' Building Control team has been nominated for Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Team of the Year in the LABC Building Excellence Awards 2023. The team were nominated by one of its customers, which shows the quality service they are providing. The final takes place in January and I'll update you on the team's result.

Some reminders of item in my last report but still relevant:

Councillor community grants funding open

The new round of funding from the Councillor Community Grant scheme has now opened. Organisations, including Town and Parish Councils, can now apply for grants from me as your local ward councillor from £250 up to a maximum of £5,000.

If you are thinking of applying, please get in touch with me first to discuss the project and then visit the South Oxfordshire Councillor Community Grants webpage for further details on eligibility. Applications are made online and are open until midday on Friday 20 October 2023.

For more information, contact the Community Enablement team at grants@southoxfordshire.gov.uk

Improving energy efficiency online events

The climate and biodiversity team held an online event in July for town and parish councils and community groups on "Improving Energy Efficiency in Community Buildings". Recordings and copies of the presentations are available on our website [South Oxfordshire](https://www.southoxfordshire.gov.uk). The team is planning a similar webinar on Tuesday 10 October. For that event the focus will be on how town and parish councils (and other community groups) can enable more retrofitting of residential properties in their areas. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

River Thames water quality updates

Anyone planning to use the River Thames at Wallingford and Henley for swimming, boating or fishing this summer will be pleased to know that the environmental charity Thames21 is doing regular water quality sampling as part of its campaign to improve water quality and gain bathing water status in those areas. The charity is publishing its water quality updates on its website. The Thames 21 website has details for Wallingford and for Henley.

Cornerstone Arts Centre events and activities

Fun for babies and toddlers

And for the autumn season, there will be classes and workshops just for those early years and their parents and/or guardians. The fun starts in September with weekly classes Baby Boppers and Story Time With Laura. These classes focus on providing tots with fantastic sensory play

experiences and socialising opportunities. Parents and/or guardians can also book children aged up to 7 on their workshop Riddle and Rhyme Time on Thursday 26 October. Join acclaimed children's poet James Carter in an interactive session with soothing music, rhymes, and the opportunity to write a poem with the special guest at the end.

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APPENDIX B

CIL Projects Working Group 25th July 2023 - Notes

Projects Agreed in Principle

Long Wittenham to Clifton Hampden Cyclepath

OCC will not fund this project. Paul Firmer of OCC has suggested that the PC funds the section of the route from the Barley Mow car park to opposite the Headington School Boathouse. OCC will provide the design of the ramp section.

We do not have a current costing but in Feb 23 it was estimated at about £90k

Is S106 funding available? The project is dependent upon the Clifton Hampden NDO and the Gibbs estate being finalised.

Playgrounds

Upgrade Acklings to provide equipment for older (9-12) children and upgrade Bodkins for younger children. Remove broken (or all) concrete slabs and extend basketball area as part of ongoing maintenance.

Peter R to meet with Claire Michelis to propose some designs.

Estimated cost £40,000.

Bodkins Clubhouse

Provide funds to finish the clubhouse extension and refurbishment. Estimated cost £15,000 to £20,000.

The Crescent & Bodkins Road Resurfacing

Steve Br has approached the contractors at the Headington School Boathouse development to provide quotes for this and will also contact a Resurfacing and Groundworks contractor at Purley Reading for quotes on this and Acklings maintenance.

Allotments

The main need is a water supply. Steve Bo and Steve Br to look into what is possible. Steve Bo may be able to arrange for the pipework to be done. He will ask Thames Water for a connection cost. Estimated cost £10,000.

Clearance of individual plots will be done as necessary from normal PC funds.

Speed Limits and Didcot Road Entry Restrictions

Details of these are yet to be finalised with OCC but the PC's commitment is expected to be in the region of £15,000 for both.

Other Projects

Trees and Landscaping

Steve Bo is managing this. Estimated cost £2,000 to be funded from grants and normal PC funds.

Sinodun Close Defibrillator

APPENDIX C

Logs Unlimited Quotation

New Work	Comment	Quote from Logs
Balsam. Spray Balsam on both sides of the ditch well before balsam seeds. Once per year.		£97
Hedge at Crescent. Spray off the Bind weed twice per year. We (LW) will need to ensure whips are watered (twice per week @10litres/m ²) watering is not something Logs can reasonably undertake.		£17
Hedges and grass at the war memorial. To be cut 3 times per year, one of which will be the week before November 11 th . To be added to area B verges.		£27
Fieldside junction with Didcot Rd. On the concrete road side, cut the bank (only) up to the entrance to the crescent, and strim the other side of concrete road up to new garages. On the gravel track side, strim 10m. This should be added to area B. (I.e., 3 x per year).		£36
Three hedges in Westfield Play area. To be removed.		£297 Removal of hedges, making good ground + reseedling
Additional Tree and Bulb planting. Bulbs to be planted late September. Trees to be planted in November. LW to supply bulbs and trees. Bulb planting @ £42 per 100 bulbs (of any type).	Quote of £42/100 is on the original contract, and that includes cost of the bulb. Please can you give a quote for planting only (various bulb types) if LW supply the bulbs.	Trees £70/tree; bulbs £28/100
Acklins: oWeedkiller top of mounds and inside of mounds, (but not outside of mounds). To be done asap, (so repair can continue), and then twice per year. oStrim pump track mound 3 times per year. (Should be covered already) oLogs do not have the expertise to repair the pump track.	Please quote for applying weedkiller to top, inside and outside of mounds.	£47
Area A verge cut width to be increased from 1.0m to 1.5m. Agreed.		
FP from Noticeboard to Saxon's Heath. Weedkiller both edges of the path 2x per year. Agreed		£54