

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 16th May 2024

Present: Chairman Steve Brown, Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr David Corney, Cllr Peter Rose, Cllr Mark Thompson, Cllr Liz Yuille, RFO Clifford Bosley, County Cllr Pete Sudbury.

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

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2024/090 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ian Burton, District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye.

2024/091 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- The organiser of the Fun Run, Prew Bowtell, was present to report that this year's event in April was a great success. The profit from the barbecue and cake stall, £662, was split between the Primary School and Pre-school. The following donations from the event profits were made: £110 to MND Association, £150 to Earth Trust, £150 to Sylva Foundation and £260 to Wittenham Warriors. She thanked the PC for its support. The chairman thanked her for organising the event.
- Resident Elaine Humphries was present to ask what progress was being made on the Community Hub and particularly, the school. See Cllr Rose's report in section 2024/098 below.

2024/092 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The chairman declared his interest in Craig End, High Street.

2024/093 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2024.

2024/094 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

2024/095 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

2024/096 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Sudbury reported:

- (1) Sean Rooney, OCC's Head of Highways Maintenance, has confirmed that they will build the ramp from the road to the permissive path on the road to Clifton Hampden.
- (2) He believes that it is likely that the HIF1 planning application will be approved by the inspector. He will confirm when the decision is to be announced.

Cllr Bolton asked if the chicanes on the High Street can be removed now that the 20mph speed limit is in place, as they are causing pollution. Cllr Sudbury said that it is likely that the PC would have to pay for this. He will consult with Sean Rooney.

2024/097 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P24/S1218/DIS	Land to the north east of Didcot	NRR
P24/S1401/HH	Craig End High Street Long Wittenham	NSV
P24/S1392/S73	Kingfishers High Street Long Wittenham	NSV



2024/098 COMMUNITY HUB

Cllr Rose reported that this is now in the hands of the solicitors who are working on the S106 agreement documents. There is no update on progress.

2024/099 CIL PROJECTS

- **Acklings Playground**
Cllr Rose reported that the amended design requested from Jupiter is still awaited. He has investigated two grant sources: the SODC CIL 2024-25 grant fund requires a 10 year lease; the FCC Community Foundation requires a 5 year lease. Savills have intimated that St John's College will agree a new 10 year lease. This is to be confirmed. It was agreed to:
(1) Chase Jupiter for the amended design;
(2) Await the new lease from Savills;
(3) Seek at least two additional quotations.
- **Allotments**
The overgrown plots at Acklings and on Fieldside have been cleared and the bridge to the Acklings plots has been rebuilt. Two of the cleared plots have been rented. Now that there are new users, the chairman will start the process of installing a well at the Acklings plots.

Actions: Chairman to seek quotes to install a well and pump at the Acklings allotments.

2024/100 LONG WITTENHAM TO CLIFTON HAMPDEN PERMISSIVE PATH

Cllr Thompson reported that the written agreement for the section of the path over the Gibbs land is still awaited. Charles Campion the Savills' land agent for the Gibbs family, has confirmed that the family support the idea. The Councillor Priority Fund grant application has not yet been confirmed. Logs Unlimited will start work to clear and level the verge once the grant is received.

2024/101 SODC CAPITAL GRANTS

It had been suggested that projects should be identified with a view to applying for SODC Capital Grants in the Summer.

Actions: Chairman and Cllr Yuille to identify capital grants projects as part of the Forward Plan review.

2024/102 ROGUE SPEEDING

It was suggested that 20mph signs, at an estimated cost of £50 to £100, should be installed on Fieldside as there are none at present. Agreed.

Actions: Chairman to purchase 20mph signs for Fieldside.

2024/103 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

2024/104 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- **Insurance**
This is due for renewal in October. Cllr Yuille said the premium is likely to rise by approximately 50% and the RFO has agreed to increase the budget by this amount. The insurance asset list will be circulated for approval at the June meeting.



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- **Grounds Maintenance Contract**
Cllr Bolton advised that Long Wittenham Athletic Club intends to tender for the new grounds maintenance contract for next April, so he has a conflict of interest and cannot manage the tender process. Cllr Corney agreed in principle to take this on.
- **The Pound**
Sally Duff had requested that Stan Kasten be employed for two days (£180) to tidy up The Pound. Agreed.
- **Headington School Boathouse**
Cllrs Rose and Corney had met with the school bursar and others to discuss village access to the facility. The school supports the idea of initially adults only having use of the pontoons with some rack storage installed for canoes and paddleboards. Access will be managed through a village club and a resident has expressed interest in setting this up. The school will advise when access will be possible. Once this is known, interested residents will be invited to a meeting to set-up the village club.
- **Bodkins Verge Parking**
Cllr Bolton said that the verge next to the playground at Bodkins has been used for overnight parking and one camper-van was there for several weeks. It is now gone. It was agreed that the PC can do nothing to stop this unless all parking on the verge is prohibited.

Actions: Clerk to provide Cllr Corney with the link to the grounds maintenance tender documents.

2024/105 MATTERS ARISING FROM CHAIRMAN

The chairman reported that the revised speed limits proposal for the entrances to the village will go before the SODC cabinet for approval on Thursday 23rd May.

2024/106 FINANCIAL REPORT

- **2023-24 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**
This was approved by the council and signed by the chairman and clerk.
- **Income during April**

03/04/2024	SODC Precept 1st Payment	£12,750.00
15/04/2024	HMRC (VAT Repayment)	£6,376.93
	April Income Total	£19,126.93
- **Expenditure during April**

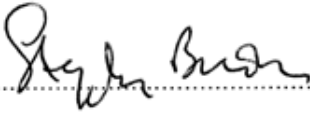
02/04/2024	Scribe Inv INV-5631 (DD)	£36.00
04/04/2024	Elliff Expenses (Website Hosting)	£27.60
11/04/2024	Clerk's Salary April 2024	£345.15
11/04/2024	Bosley Expenses (Stationery & Litter Pick Refreshments)	£21.09
11/04/2024	Bosley Expenses (Payroll)	£157.60
16/04/2024	Community Heartbeat Inv 20971 (High St Defib Support)	£162.00
19/04/2024	The Safety Supply Co Inv 9208787 (Fun Run Hi-Vis vests)	£44.27
	April Expenditure Total	£793.71

2024/107 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

Meeting Closed at 9:50pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 20th June 2024

Signed: 

Date: 20-6-24

APPENDIX A

District Councillor Report May 2024 Sam Casey-Rerhaye

The 'Way Ahead' for South Oxfordshire

We launched a consultation on the council's proposals for a new council plan for the next four years – this closed on 14th May and we heard from hundreds of people, online, email or in person.

Thank you to all of you who joined this conversation around what the council strategic priorities for the next four years should be, which will inform how we deliver our services – both statutory (like waste collection, planning and environmental health), and other services (like the Community Hub, councillor community grants or planning enforcement).

We will be considering all comments and producing our final plan by the autumn.

New 'Let It Bee' meadow areas added

The Council declared an ecological emergency in 2021. We are committed to doing what we can as a council to address this. We know that meadow/uncut areas are incredibly important for plants and insects and other creatures that rely on them – they provide a feast and habitat for hungry pollinators, birds and insects as the wildflowers grow.

Following on from the success of our Let It Bee trial last year our parks team is continuing with our land management where we allow the grass grow on sections of land we own or manage. This year we have added new sites to our meadow areas following recommendations from residents, council members and town and parish councils - sites across both South and Vale districts in Abingdon, Benson, Berinsfield, Botley, Didcot, Faringdon, Marcham, Shepherds Green, Wallingford, Wantage, and Woodcote.

For more information please see our grass cutting pages on our websites (South/Vale)

New housing enforcement policy

Our new Housing Enforcement Policy supports residents as well as social housing landlords, private landlords, letting agents and tenants by setting out in a clear and transparent document the housing standards we expect in the districts. The policy also explains the enforcement approach we take against non-co-operative landlords.

We have a strong track record of engaging positively with landlords and the majority provide a good quality service to their tenants. However, where necessary, we must take robust action against rogue landlords who are unwilling to meet the required housing standards set out in the policy. This policy will help ensure a fair and consistent approach to housing enforcement in the districts.

The policy supports our corporate objectives to help us provide homes and infrastructure that meet local needs. It also builds upon the work already being undertaken by our Private Sector Housing team to promote and maintain good housing standards in South Oxfordshire

You can view the policy on our website.

Council agrees new taxi fares for South Oxfordshire

We have agreed new Hackney carriage fares for the district this month.

The new tariff sets a maximum hackney carriage fare and also outlines the time periods for when different costs apply. As a maximum tariff, drivers can choose to charge passengers a lower rate if they wish.

Setting tariffs is a standard practice across the country and something the council, as the licensing authority, is empowered to do by law. It is also an important part of protecting the public's interests by ensuring consistent and transparent rates.

The new tariff only applies to Hackney carriage taxis and for their journeys within the district. It does not apply to private hire taxis, which people book in advance. It has been calculated using a robust, tried and tested method – called the Guildford Method.

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter

The Council has pledged their commitment to OIEP. It means when the council agrees contracts it will assess the support the supplier can offer the local community as well as the value for money of the contract. The council will look wherever possible to buy goods and services from local organisations, including SMEs social enterprises and cooperatives.

By looking to buy from local organisations first we aim to reduce our carbon footprint while better supporting local economy.

We'll also support our staff to volunteer at local community projects, which we hope will enable them to build new skills and links with their communities, benefitting all involved,

We'd like to encourage the many fantastic local businesses of all sizes to follow suit and make their own pledges. Find out more at: <https://www.oiep.org.uk>

Some council car parking fees have changed

The fees are being simplified and rounded to the nearest £. All will still have a period of free parking. Some fees will reduce and others see a modest increase. Overall, it will mean some additional income for the council to use to cover the cost of running these car parks, otherwise we will need to use money that could (and should) be spent on other services.

May Half term activities that are low cost

Young children and their families can enjoy free and low-cost entertainment and activities during the May half-term holiday.

From 28 to 31 May, children can take part in the Xplorer navigation challenge in Benson and Abingdon. At Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot there's the chance to make your own robot sidekick from recycled material.

And lots more - southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities.

Contact me at sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk or call 01235 635566

