

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 17th October 2024

Present: Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr Ian Burton, Cllr Peter Rose, Cllr Mark Thompson, Cllr Liz Yuille, RFO Clifford Bosley,

In attendance: Martin Elliff (clerk).

In the absence of Chairman Brown, Cllr Yuille took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2024/168 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Chairman Steve Brown, Cllr David Corney, County Cllr Pete Sudbury, District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye.

2024/169 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

2024/170 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

2024/171 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2024.

2024/172 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

2024/173 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

2024/174 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

None.

2024/175 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P24/S2885/DIS	Nobel Park Willington Down Didcot	NRR
P24/S3015/HH	Drapers Barn Fieldside Long Wittenham	NSV
P24/S3079/DIS	Craig End High Street Long Wittenham	NRR
P24/S3061/HH	The Grange High Street Long Wittenham	

- The council agreed to support this application and ask for the following conditions to be considered:

1. The new building may not be used as a permanent residence.
2. No additional or vehicular access should be permitted to The Grange site from Fieldside track.
3. Any damage caused to the surface of Fieldside track during the construction must be repaired during and at the conclusion of the construction period. This repair to include the full length of the track between Drapers Barn and Hampden House.
4. All building materials to be delivered to the site using the existing access from High Street.
5. No building materials, storage or other items to be left on Fieldside track or the grass areas alongside it, but to be kept within the curtilage of The Grange site.
6. Any scaffolding required to the South East of the Barn should be kept to a minimum, ideally within the curtilage of The Grange site, but in any case, should not remove or restrict the existing vehicular right of way along this section of Fieldside track.



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2024/176 COMMUNITY HUB

- Thomas Homes (TH) submitted a response to the questions raised by OCC regarding the legal agreements at the beginning of October. There has been no response from OCC. TH has written to the CEO of OCC and Cllr Sudbury has been asked to raise it with him too.

2024/177 CIL PROJECTS

- Acklings Playground
Decisions on the grant requests submitted to SODC and FCC are expected in December.
- Outdoor Gym Equipment
There were fourteen responses to the website post asking for people's views. The comments were split approximately 50/50 between those for and against. It was suggested that resident Yiannis Michelis be asked if he would be prepared to organise a group/club that would use the equipment on a regular basis.

Actions: Cllr Thompson to discuss Outdoor Gym Equipment with Yiannis Michelis.

2024/178 LONG WITTENHAM TO CLIFTON HAMPDEN PERMISSIVE PATH

Cllr Thompson reported that contractors are being sought to quote for installing the gates needed at either end of the Gibbs and Buxton sections of the path. Two trees at the village end of the path still need to be removed.

2024/179 HIGH STREET CHICANES REMOVAL

ODS has provided a rough estimate for the cost of the removal of the two chicanes and the installation of two road humps: £10500. If a road closure is required, OCC will charge £2500. The next step would be to ask ODS for a detailed quotation so that OCC can set-up the public consultation which will cost £2205. The council agreed to proceed.

Actions: Clerk to seek a detailed quotation for the removal of the High Street chicanes.

2024/180 GRANT APPLICATION – Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice

The grant application had been circulated before the meeting. £350 agreed.

2024/181 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Chairman Brown has updated the tender documents. They will be circulated to the council for comment. It was agreed that the tender invitations should go out at the beginning of January.

Actions: Clerk to circulate the tender documents for comment.

2024/182 DIDCOT TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It had been suggested that Long Wittenham become part of the Didcot Town Neighbourhood plan. Cllrs Yuille and Rose had met with Cllr Hugh MacDonald of Didcot Town Council online to discuss this. They suggested that there is little to be gained in participating as long as our NDP is updated regularly.

Actions: Clerk to advise the Didcot Town team that Long Wittenham does not wish to participate in their plan.



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2024/183 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

It was agreed that council meetings should continue on the third Thursday of each month (with the exception of August).

Actions: Clerk to circulate 2025 PC meeting dates, update the website and notify the Village Hall Committee.

2024/184 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Prew Bowtell has advised that this year's wreath will cost £16. The council agreed to add a donation and pay £120 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Cllr Yuille will represent the council at the service on 11th November.

2024/185 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

2024/186 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Dead Trees
Cllr Bolton reported that seven trees planted over the last couple of years have died and need to be replaced. The trees will cost approximately £525. Mr Rainbow will plant them for £175. Approved.
- Speed Alert Indicators
Cllr Corney had circulated some information about this, but more is needed before a decision can be made. To be discussed at the November meeting.
- Appleford Battery Storage Facility
Some residents had received letters inviting them to a public consultation meeting at Appleford Village Hall on 22nd October. Chairman Brown had suggested someone from the council might want to attend.

2024/187 FINANCIAL REPORT

- 1st Half 2024-25 Accounts
The 1st half accounts had been circulated by the RFO before the meeting.
Approved.
- Income during September
05/09/2024 SODC Precept 2nd Payment £12,750.00
- Expenditure during September
03/09/2024 Logs Unlimited Inv 240233 £545.28
11/09/2024 Clerk's Salary September 2024 £345.15
25/09/2024 Moore Inv 326514 (Audit) £378.00
September Expenditure Total £1,268.43

2024/188 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

Meeting Closed at 8:25pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st November 2024



Signed:  Date: 21/11/24

APPENDIX A

District Councillor Report October 2024 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Joint Local Plan update

Following on from last month's special Cabinet and Council meetings, where approval was given for the districts' draft Joint Local Plan to be published for comment, it is now at the next stage.

Starting from Tuesday 1 October, we have made the plan available for comment – this will be a six-week opportunity for stakeholders to let us know if they think our JLP meets all the relevant requirements. We're aiming to submit it along with the comments we've received on to the Planning Inspectorate for formal examination in December.

This is a more technical part of the process as we carried out two highly successful public consultations during the development of the plan, which were recognised and commended at national awards ceremonies.

National Planning Policy changes consultation

The councils have submitted a formal response to the consultation. You can view the councils' response here: [Council Responses to Consultations about Planning - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://southoxon.gov.uk/council-responses-to-consultations-about-planning-south-oxfordshire-district-council)

Our consultation submissions are particularly important and timely given the work we are currently undertaking to progress our Joint Local Plan. Proposed changes to the national planning policy framework (NPPF), when published by government, could have a long-lasting impact on the future of our district.

Flooding

Please keep an eye on the [Environment Agency's flood warning map](#) to track any issues in your area. Please also be aware that this monitors the main rivers, and smaller watercourses which have also been affected and caused localised flooding last month.

While Oxfordshire County Council has primary responsibility for co-ordinating the local flood response, officers from across our councils are providing an important supporting role too.

Please look at the [Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit](#), (on the county council's website) which contains useful advice on what to do if you're at risk of flooding, or indeed if you're currently experiencing a flood.

The District Council does not supply sandbags as they are relatively ineffective when compared to purpose designed flood protection products. If residents feel they would still benefit from sandbags, they can buy unfilled sacks and a supply of sand from most DIY stores and Builders Merchants.

Of course, if anybody is in an emergency situation where people are at risk, they should dial 999 immediately.

We also advise all residents to investigate if their property is at risk of flooding ahead of bad weather and to take proactive action to protect their property. Information on flood risk in the area can be found here: www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk If their property is at risk they can sign up to the warnings in their area via the Environment Agency Website: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings or by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Recycling and waste collections have also been disrupted with the recent flooding – we are posting regular updates on social media and on the councils' websites. Our crews are continuing to catch up on the waste and recycling collections which have been delayed due to the flooding. Our advice to residents is to leave your bins out and our crews will aim to return to as soon as possible, where it is safe to do so. If bins haven't been emptied after three days, residents can contact 03000 610 610.

Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme

Community organisations are now able to apply for The Homes for Ukraine Grant Scheme with grants ranging from £250 to £2,000. This grant scheme is designed to help fund projects or services that support the successful integration and settlement of Homes for Ukraine guests into their new communities across the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire.

The scheme opened for applications on 16 September. The grant scheme is being administered in partnership with Cherwell District Council. You can download the application form from the SODC website alongside this guidance document.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Every responsible authority (in our case the County Council) is required by law now to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). SODC is a member of the Local Nature Partnership, to which this responsibility has been delegated, and there have been a number of workshops involving large numbers of stakeholders over the past 18 months or so. The final draft LNRS will be available for public consultation for 6 weeks from 15th October, so I will send out links when it is launched.

Didcot Eco-Fair

Everyone is invited to the Didcot Eco Fair at Cornerstone on Saturday 2 November from 11am to 3pm when we will be celebrating all things green and showcasing our districts' fantastic sustainable businesses, with a clothing swap, great ideas on how to avoid food waste and advice on how to save energy.

Didcot Garden Town, in partnership with South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and Sustainable Didcot, is hosting the free family-friendly event. Centre stage will be the Eco Marketplace with a variety of eco-friendly stalls specialising in handmade products, clothing, food and drink.

Parking charge notice scam

We are aware of a scam circulating locally and that some people in our districts are continuing to receive text messages about having to pay a parking fine. These are scams – we would not send these messages. If you receive one of these texts ignore the message and please spread the word to warn others

Half term fun and more

October half term is just around the corner, so consider entertaining children with a treat at the Cornerstone with the latest family ballet from Let's All Dance. Whacky costumes, impressive dance moves, and larger-than-life characters balance out an important message about difference and acceptance in The Ugly Duckling. Full of hilarity and heart, this show is great for the whole family, especially children aged 2-12, and will be opening at Cornerstone on Sunday 27 October.

If you're looking for something a little spookier this half term, join Cornerstone's in-house art tutor for a Make Your Own Halloween Mask workshop. Your little monsters can create their very own spooky (or silly) Halloween mask using a range of fun and colourful art supplies. Perfect for children in school years 1-6.

For full details of these activities and more, visit the Cornerstone website



Lobbying for better infrastructure for clean water and sewage

Our Thames Champion, Cllr Jo Robb, is in Parliament meeting ministers again this week, continuing her sustained work to push for change so that our sewage and clean water supply fit for the future. Jo met with national campaigner for clean water Feargal Sharkey and other campaigners in the summer at Westminster to lobby the new government for a sustainable plan for this infrastructure and continues to work hard on this for the benefit of all residents and nature in South Oxfordshire

As ever, if you have any questions or issues you would like to contact me about:

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