

Sonning Common Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 15 April 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mrs Lewis (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Giles; Mr Greenwood; Mr Howe; Mr Kedge; Mr Rawlins and Mr Stoves. Also Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Ms Boorman.

- 20/001 Apologies for absence: Mr Fort, Mr Rinta-Suksi and Mr Shanagher. No declarations
- 20/002 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. None.
- 20/003 Police Matters – no report.
- 20/004 To approve Minutes of previous meetings:
 - 004.01 Finance Committee held on 10 April 2019 delayed to next meeting.
 - 004.02 Planning Committee held on 1 April 2019 - presented and approved.
 - 004.03 Parish Council meeting held on 18 March 2019 - presented and approved.
- 20/005 County Councillor's Report – see Appendix A.
- 20/006 District Councillor's Report – see Appendix B.
- 20/007 Parish Clerk's Report – noted.
- 20/008 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) members were briefed on progress being made towards the planning application.
- 20/009 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) members were briefed by Mr Howe on progress being made in commissioning Peter Brett Associates to pick up from the BH-B report.
- 20/010 Environment Working Party – to be updated next month.
- 20/011 Neighbourhood Plan Revision – members were advised that work is proceeding with many site surveys.
- 20/012 Village Hall roof replacement – It was resolved to authorise contracting with Tilehurst roofing to replace the flat roofs at a cost of £30K +VAT.
- 20/013 Year-end matters - the Clerk advised that formalities are in hand.
- 20/014 Matters for future agendas – Emergency Planning; Kidmore End Memorial Hall.

It was noted that Mr Greenwood is retiring after 23 years as an active and energetic member of the council who will be sorely missed. A vote of thanks was passed unanimously.

Next meeting: Monday 13 May 2019 at 19.30.

Chairman: Dated:

Appendix A

REPORT TO SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2019 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW GENERAL OCC REPORT

£218M SECURED FOR MAJOR TRANSPORT LINKS IN DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN

OCC, working in close partnership with South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils, was awarded the funding to support the creation of thousands of new jobs and houses, including affordable homes. The successful outcome of the bid was announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, in the Spring Statement and is part of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) programme. The package of measures has previously been identified in Local Plans to provide the infrastructure that helps deliver homes. The main schemes for developing Didcot are:

- A4130 widening from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot;
- A new "Science Bridge" over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site;
- A new Culham to Didcot river crossing between the A415 and A4130;
- A Clifton Hampden bypass

All schemes include improved segregated walking and cycling routes which will give people real travel choice. The lack of suitable crossings over the railway line and river coupled with the success of the Science Vale area has resulted in heavy congestion. Construction is currently programmed for mid-2021 and completion is expected by March 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL BACKS JOINT STRATEGIC SPATIAL PLAN

OCC supports the aspirations of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, which was out to consultation until 26 March 2019. As part of the Housing and Growth Deal that the six Oxfordshire councils signed with the government, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will consider issues such as housing and infrastructure while also keeping and enhancing Oxfordshire's heritage and natural environment. The plan will also promote public transport, cycling and walking and will make healthy living and wellbeing a priority. The aspirations for Oxfordshire 2050 described in the consultation document also include supporting economic growth, improving housing availability and increasing transport connectivity across the county. In its submission to the consultation OCC's response included:

- Greater emphasis on the need for an increase in sustainable modes of travel, and to enhance messages around public health and the environment
- Highlight the need for charging points for electric vehicles into all premises together with full fibre broadband
- Focus on the need to ensure that cycling and walking levels and traffic reduction are radically improved

There will be another round of consultation in the summer, which will cover: place-shaping principles, policy options including levels of housing and employment growth, and broad locations for new development.

DELIVERING AN OLDER PEOPLE'S STRATEGY FOR OXFORDSHIRE

A strategy setting out how agencies will work together to deliver a positive future for the county's older population has been approved. 'Living Longer, Living Better: Oxfordshire's Older People's Strategy' was produced in 2018 following the redesign of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was developed by OCC and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Residents, health and charity organisations, professionals, businesses, the public sector and community groups were engaged in the strategy to ensure it represented the views and aspirations of the population. It includes four themes which emerged during the co-production phase: being physically and emotionally healthy; being part of a strong and dynamic community; housing, homes and the environment; and access to information and care. The draft strategy went out for wider public consultation between December 2018 and February 2019 and received 236 individual responses. Overall, there was strong agreement with the vision, priorities and outcomes. Following approval by the council's Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board, planning is now under way on delivering the strategy.

COUNCIL SETS OUT PLANS FOR OXFORDSHIRE'S HOME CARE

A review that explored options for the future of home care in Oxfordshire has concluded OCC should not provide its own in-house service but should create a new partnership model. The council purchases home care for adults from the independent market – although this accounts for less than 50% of the total home care places provided in the county. The rest is purchased by self-funders. During the 2016/17 period a number of home care providers exited the market and this prompted councillors to ask for a review of the system including an assessment of whether the council should provide its own service. In addition to creating a new model of partnership with the independent market the report also concluded that the council should be developing alternative models of home care and improving outcomes for people receiving rehabilitation and reviewing arrangements for contingencies.

OXFORDSHIRE TO GET BOOST FROM WOMEN'S CYCLE RACE

Oxfordshire can expect economic and health benefits from hosting a stage of the prestigious OVO Energy Women's Tour professional cycling race on Wednesday, June 12. A stage of the high-profile British cycling event has been secured by the county council and five districts in a three-year deal with race organisers SweetSpot. In a comparable stage in last year's race in Warwickshire, additional local expenditure linked directly to the event totalled £2m by around 100,000 spectators. Nearly two-thirds (63%) came from outside the county and 67% of spectators said they were inspired to cycle more often. This year's stage will start in South Oxfordshire and end at Blenheim Palace.

Details of the exact route, which will also pass through the Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire, will be revealed in the coming weeks. About 100 professional riders will weave their way through towns, villages and rural areas and race highlights will be screened on ITV4. The race itself starts in Suffolk on 10 June, and takes riders across the country in six stages.

JOINT COUNCIL CRACKDOWN ON BLUE BADGE FRAUD

OCC, in partnership with Oxford City Council’s anti-fraud team and Cherwell District Council, recently undertook an on-street operation to detect and prevent abuse of the Blue Badge scheme in Oxfordshire last week. During the operation, it was estimated that 1,000 Blue Badges were checked across Oxfordshire, with 21 seized. In Oxford, 600 were checked and 12 seized. Blue Badge misuse is a criminal offence and can result in a fine of up to £1,000 and a criminal record. A Penalty Charge Notice will also be issued to anyone misusing a disabled parking bay. Many Oxfordshire residents rely on their Blue Badge to remain mobile and independent, enabling them to access goods and services that many of us take for granted. Inappropriate use of disabled parking bays can result in Blue Badge holders missing medical appointments, not being able to get out to buy food, or get to work. Every parking space really does matter.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SONNING COMMON - PARKING IN ELM COURT

As reported at the last meeting, I have received further representations from the Community First Responder about the parking problems he is facing and have again raised the matter with officers. It remains that there is little OCC can do to assist directly, but I am exploring the option of creating an ambulance bay. However, initially conversations between officers and DfT/DoH suggest this route will not be fruitful.

POND END ROAD CONCRETE KERBS

Please update me on the status of the estimate production. I remain pleased to match-fund using my Councillor Priority Fund up to the limits discussed. There is no problem rolling the funding into next year, but the process has been amended and a form needs to be completed. Details here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/thriving-communities/councillor-priority-fund>

INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

Councillor Rawlins has requested confirmation of capital costs for each of the following infrastructure items:

- A4130 widening from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot;
- A new “Science Bridge” over the A4130, Great Western Railway Line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site;
- A new Culham to Didcot river crossing between the A415 and A4130;
- A Clifton Hampden bypass.

Answers as below:

Current estimates for the following infrastructure items are:

Item	Approx. Cost
A4130 widening	£20m
Science Bridge	£50m
Culham to Didcot River Crossing	£108m
Clifton Hampden Bypass	£24m
Total cost (2018/19 prices)	£202m
Total inflated cost (year by year, up to March 2024)	£234.5m

OCC has been awarded £218m through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) with the remainder (c.£16m) coming from held or secured S106 expected to be collected within the HIF period (up to March 2024).

Appendix B

District Councillor's Report April 2019 from Cllr Paul Harrison

Chief Executive's Pay

The national press has been making a lot about so called "fat Cat" salaries for Council chiefs. In their list South Oxfordshire comes out number 10 in their list. In fact this is untrue, there are 2 officers who earn more than £100,000 per year. The chief executive's salary is circa £160,000 and although he's employed by South Oxfordshire his costs are evenly split between the 2 councils so only costs us £80,000 a year and when you consider he has a staff of over 300 is good value for money.

OVO Energy Women's Tour

Stage 3 of the 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour, the premier women's cycling event will take place on Wednesday 12th June, starting in Henley on Thames and finishing at Blenheim Castle. The route has been announced and brushes the edge of the Sonning Common Ward.

This will start in Henley Market Place and then travel through various towns and villages in South Oxfordshire. The route will brush the edge of the Sonning Common Ward.

Outside Henley the route itself it will likely be a rolling 20-minute delay as the cyclists are guided through by police outriders. There may also be some parking restrictions in place for the route, which will be lifted once the cyclists have passed.

The 6 councils which make up Oxfordshire have agreed to fund this event for the next 3 years with each council contributing the same amount. Even if the event does not come through their area. Over the 3 years it is guaranteed to visit every council area.

South Oxfordshire Local Plan

The South Oxfordshire local plan has now been submitted to the planning Inspectorate for independent examination. The public will be able to witness the proceedings but only those invited by the inspector will be able to participate in the hearing. The date of the start of proceedings is yet to be announced.

Community broadband Boost

Cllrs Lloyd, White, Matelot and Harrison attended the Better Broadband event for Oxfordshire Celebration to mark the 600th broadband cabinet going live as the final homes in Chinnor, Sydenham and Emmington area were given access to fibre broadband.

The rollout of broadband to the rural community was a joint venture with BT, Oxfordshire County Council and SODC. SODC had given £1,000,000 back in 2014 to help to ensure broadband was available throughout our district. In many respects' broadband is becoming an essential service.

The event was held at The Inn at Emmington and brought together MPs, Councillors, Partner organisations, business owners and members of the community to see how the technology works, understand the benefits and learn how people can upgrade to fibre broadband.

All new housing estates will in the future get fibre broadband.

South and Vale Business Awards

The inaugural South and Vale Business Awards took place on the 15th March at the Williams F1 Conference centre in Grove. There were a number of business categories, there was a joint winner for the Large Business of the Year Award with Bremont Watch of Henley and Reaction Engines of Abingdon collecting this award.

HR Wallingford won the award for Established Innovation of the Year Award and Howbery Park won the Business Space of the Year Award.

Milton Park Site

SODC have negotiated a 10-year repairing lease with Milton Park. This lease allows us a breakout after 3 years which will tie in with us rebuilding the site at Crowmarsh.