

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 24 April 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr Kedge (Chairman); Mr Fort; Mr Howe; Mr Jones; Mrs Lewis; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Rawlins; Mr Rust and. Also, Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Parish Clerk). Also present: Cllr D Bartholomew, and C McLoughlin Henley Standard

- 18/001 Apologies for absence: Mrs Diwell; Mr Greenwood; Mr Stoves and Cllr P Harrison. No declarations of interest
- 18/002 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders. No public present.
- 18/003 Police Report items. Mr Kedge reported that there had been a very productive meeting on 21 April with police and the SODC ASBO Officer with a number of actions planned. As a result he proposed a motion under the 10 o'clock rule 'That the parish council authorises the Clerk to implement the suggestion from the police that a CTV camera should focus upon the OneStop area with a suitably timed light to illuminate the area.' Approved unanimously.
- 18/004 Minutes of previous meetings:
004.01 Finance Committee held on 5 April 2017 were presented and approved.
004.02 Planning Committee held on 20 February, 20 March and 3 April 2017 were presented and approved.
004.03 Parish Council meeting held on 20 March 2017 were presented and approved.
- 18/005 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Bartholomew's general report is attached as Appendix A. He added that the combined cycle and foot path from Bird wood Court to Westleigh Drive is going ahead, that he is attending CAGE meetings, that the Caversham Quarry will open soon.
- 18/006 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Harrison submitted a report attached as Appendix B .
- 18/007 Parish Clerk's Report – noted.
- 18/008 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) update – nothing to report whilst awaiting SODC's completion of S106 and Planning Conditions with Linden Homes.
- 18/009 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) - Mr Howe reported that Ben Hamilton-Baillie's work will commence in June.
- 18/010 Village Hall management – the Parish Clerk advised that discussions are under way for the Parish Council to take over running the hall from SCVHMC.
- 18/011 Motion under the 10 o'clock rule: It was resolved that the Council fully supports the CAGE wish to have the Gladman application in Eye & Dunsden 'called in'.
- 18/012 Matters for future agendas – the AONB

Meeting closed at 2051

Next meeting: Monday 15 May 2017 at 19.30.

Chairman: Dated:

Appendix A

REPORT TO SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2017 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections to Oxfordshire County Council are now just under five weeks away and there are a series of key dates in the lead up to the Thursday, May 4 poll.

The final full council meeting of the county councillors elected in May 2013 took place on Tuesday, March 21.

All 63 county council seats will be up for election and residents all over Oxfordshire began to receive polling cards during the last week of March.

On Wednesday, April 5 the list of candidates for each OCC seat will be published. A number of existing county councillors have already indicated they are standing down but the definitive list will not be clear until April 5.

Registering to vote

The last day for people to register to vote is Thursday April 13. Although this is a county council election, Oxfordshire's district councils are the authorities responsible for administering the electoral register and people should contact them if they are not already registered to vote.

The last date to apply for a postal and postal proxy vote is Tuesday 18 April and the last date to apply for a new proxy vote is Tuesday 25 April 2017.

Polling day

Polling Day on Thursday, May 4 runs from 7.00am to 10 pm. The election count takes place on Friday, May 5 in Abingdon.

PURDAH

The County Council pre-election period ('purdah') has now started and the Council must comply with restrictions outlined in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986. In addition a 'Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity' published in 2011 makes clear that particular care should be taken in periods of heightened sensitivity, such as in the run up to an election. The Act defines publicity as "any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or to a section of the public."

Generally, the Act says that a council should "not publish any material which, in whole, or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party." The Code of Practice recommends that authorities should generally not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters and that publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published unless expressly authorised by statute.

UNITARY UPDATE

For the reasons above, the County Council, Oxford City Council and the four District Councils have agreed not to promote their standpoint on the issue of Unitary Government for the period of purdah.

TRAVEL APP CAN SHOW BETTER WAZE TO GO

OCC has joined forces with Waze, the free crowdsourced traffic and navigation app, in a data-sharing link-up that could help residents get from A to B more easily. Waze is effectively a Sat Nav app used exactly as any in-car navigation device – except Waze has the added benefit of crowd-sourced traffic flow info and OCC roadworks as part of the mix. This means that the app can see the traffic hotspots on the roads and route residents round them where appropriate, saving them time. Waze is FREE to download and use – simply go to <https://www.waze.com/download>

Appendix B

District Councillor Report April 2017

Unitary Council

At an emergency full council meeting on Friday 10th March SODC voted to pursue the setting up of a Unitary Council based on the Oxfordshire County Council. This immediately followed a cabinet meeting to agree the proposals prior to putting to the full council. Our sister council the Vale of the White Horse had an emergency full council meeting a couple of days before. The reason for such a rush was so that it could go Oxfordshire County Council's full council the following Tuesday.

The proposed bid now goes to the minister of state (Sajid Javid MP) for a decision. The combined proposal would have regional boards which would handle planning based on the same boundaries as the current District Council's boundaries, and there would be local decision making in as yet not fully defined town zones.

Because of the purdah rules surrounding the County Council elections any further movement will have to wait until these elections are complete. However, although the Vale, SODC and Oxfordshire County Council have recommended the proposed unitary three other councils are opposed to this. These are West Oxfordshire District Council, Cherwell District Council and Oxford City Council.

There is a further complication, you can only have one council tax for the whole of this new unitary and because Oxford City has the majority of the Social Services need unless they agree to take some of the current services from the unitary council then there could be a substantial increase in council tax across the county. There is also the question of the £50m+ reserves held by SODC, not all this could be used to for residents in South Oxfordshire and a lot of this will have to go outside our district possibly to massage the council tax increase for the first year of the new unitary.

The following press release has been put on the Public Sector Executive web page:-
<http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Comment/a-new-council-for-a-better-oxfordshire>

Local Plan

As we all know both the Vale and South Oxfordshire District Councils have failed the 5 year land supply test, mainly due to developer's land banking significant parts of Didcot which was expected to take 60% of our housing supply. This then leaves a large proportion of our District open to aggressive development often by the same developers who land banked most of the development areas in Didcot. The one saving grace is those towns and villages which have a neighbourhood plan as Gavin Barwell MP the minister responsible for the planning Inspectorate has decreed that a neighbourhood if under 2 years old in a District with over 3 years land supply should be considered "In Date", which is significant because the inspectorate will consider that area to be protected.

We are therefore keen to get our 5 year land supply back up to date which is where the Local Plan 2033 becomes important. 2033 is the period covered by this local plan. There has been a number of public meetings in our market towns and the one relevant to us in Henley at the Christ the Church Centre between 10am – 4pm on Saturday 22nd April.

I hope Councillors were able to attend. I was previously engaged on civic duties so unable to attend.

Gladman's Application

This application is a major concern to Sonning Common as it reduces the gap between our village and Reading. This is likely to go to the Planning Committee on the 24th May as the alternate date of the 17th May will probably be too close for the issues in the application to be

resolved. I would hope there would be a good turnout of residents as this does influence committee member's view of an application.

The major issues are traffic impact on Reading with the lack of capacity on the bridges and the lack of education facilities in either Oxfordshire or Reading.

Individual Councillor Grant Scheme

The Individual Councillor Grant Scheme was approved on Thursday 6 April. The scheme will launch early summer with every South Oxfordshire District Councillor having £5,000 allocated to them to award in grants for community projects. Grants can be made from £500 to the maximum of £5,000 and must benefit the community in the councillor's ward area. Funds will be allocated to councillors once they have completed training. You will receive an email in the near future with more details about dates for training.

Charity and Volunteer Awards - nominate volunteers or groups

Nominations for this year's OCVA Charity and Volunteer Awards are still open. This annual event celebrates charities, voluntary and community groups as well as not-for-profit enterprise groups and non-statutory groups whose main beneficiaries are in Oxfordshire.

Please pass on the word to nominate volunteers or groups and organisations in our districts for an award. The event will take place on 9 May at Oxford Town Hall and nominations must be received by 3 April. Go to OCVA's website for more details about the event and how to nominate.

New Sheriff of Oxfordshire

Miss Jane Elizabeth Cranston was formally sworn in as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire on 11 April. Jane takes over from Sarah Taylor and will serve for one year.

Jane moved to Oxfordshire in 1990 and has played an active part in local life since then, particularly in education as she was, simultaneously for many years, a governor of St Helen and St Katharine, The Manor Preparatory School and both Abingdon and Abingdon Prep Schools. She is a Trustee of Vale House Care Home for Dementia, Chairman of her local village shop and Chairman of the newly formed charity Youth Challenge Oxfordshire.

More than £1million for community groups

We are providing more than £1million in grant funding to 16 community groups, charities and support organisations across the district.

This revenue grant funding will help groups to pay for costs such as salaries, rent, rates, marketing, transport and utilities, and will mean that important services such as support for disabled people, carers, and the elderly, can continue to be available locally for South Oxfordshire residents.

The groups receiving funding are:

- Age UK Oxfordshire - £93,289
- Berinsfield Information and Volunteer Centre - £56,814
- Community First Oxfordshire - £74,250
- FISH Volunteer Centre - £12,000
- Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire - £66,706
- My Life My Choice - £16,840
- Nomad Youth & Community Project - £80,000
- Oxfordshire Association for the Blind - £25,000
- Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre - £52,500
- Riverside Counselling Service - £65,000
- South & Vale Carers Centre - £83,508
- South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance - £94,000

- Style Acre - £66,000
- The Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children - £100,000
- Thomley Activity Centre - £97,500
- TRAIN - £79,297

New alerts app from Thames Valley Police

Thames Valley Police has recently launched the 'Thames Valley Alert' app which sends residents phone notifications about the latest policing alerts in their area.

The app can send targeted messages based on geographical location as well as messaging preferences, about specific information, warnings and advice relevant to that location. It also offers a number of other features, including quick location of the closest police station, and also provides the latest Thames Valley-wide news. The app is free to download on iPhone and Android by visiting the Apple store or Google Play and searching 'Thames Valley Alert'.

Waste - Bank holiday, garden waste and compost giveaway

Bank holiday collections

Bins will be emptied a day later following yesterday's bank holiday, Monday 1 May. It's grey bin week in South Oxfordshire. Full details are on the websites – South.

Extra garden waste week

Our garden waste customers can leave an extra bin of garden waste out for collection on their normal collection day in the week beginning 15 May in the Vale and the week beginning 22 May in South. The extra waste should be left out in an open box or bag.

Annual compost giveaway

Every year, we give away a lot of compost created from our garden waste service. This year the giveaway takes place on the weekend of 13-14 May:

- Saturday 13 May, 9am-11am - The old South Oxfordshire District Council car park in Crowmarsh
- Sunday 14 May, 9am-11am - Rye Farm car park, Abingdon

The giveaway is on a first come, first served basis for residents who come along with their box, bag or container – and a shovel.

Neighbourhood planning update

Shiplake Parish Council

Shiplake Parish Council has submitted its proposed neighbourhood plan area application to the council. As the application includes parts of two parishes, we have launched a six-week publicity period.

Further information can be viewed at www.southoxon.gov.uk/shiplakenp

To check the progress of all our neighbourhood plans, take a look at the South Oxfordshire chart.

South Local Plan consultation events

We have now concluded our drop-in events in Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford. We are delighted that around 350 people took the opportunity to attend and participate.

Our draft Local Plan (published on 29 March 2017) is now midway through its seven week consultation – closing date 17 May.

The plan and all associated documents, along with information on how to provide feedback are publicly available at www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan.

If you have questions about the consultation, please contact planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk