

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 19 February 2018 in the Village Hall

Present: Mrs Lewis (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Fort; Mr Greenwood; Mr Kedge; Mrs Phillips-Tilbury; Mr Rawlins; Mr Rinta-Suksi; Mr Rust and Mr Stoves. Also: Mr Collings (Parish Clerk) and Mrs Varnes (Deputy Parish Clerk). Also present: Cllr D Bartholomew; Cllr P Harrison; Mr C McLoughlin Henley Standard. Six members of the public.

- 18/138 Apologies for absence: Mr Howe and Mr Jones. No declarations of interests.
- 18/139 Public Question Time. Ms Bernice Ellis asked for further news on the bus stop by Brinds Close. A model of a possible extension to the one there was shown and discussed at length and it was agreed to pursue this option.
- 18/140 Police Report – previously circulated by email.
- 18/141 Minutes of previous meetings:
- 141.01 Finance Committee held on 7 February 2018 were presented and approved.
 - 141.02 Planning Committee held on 15 January 2018 were presented and approved.
 - 141.03 Parish Council meeting held on 15 January 2018 were presented and approved.
- 18/142 County Councillor's Report - Cllr Bartholomew's report is Attachment A.
- 18/143 District Councillor's Report - Cllr Harrison's report is Attachment B
- 18/144 Parish Clerk's Report – It was resolved to cease pursuing the matter of the 40mph zone on the B481 and it was noted that a new Working Party is needed to oversee the Village Hall.
- 18/145 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) update – the Parish Clerk reported that the transfer of the site is now imminent.
- 18/146 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) – meeting was advised that it is intended that Ben Hamilton-Baillie will present to a public meeting on 7 June with a follow up exhibition on 16 June.
- 18/147 Environment Working Party – Mr Rust reported that work continues to clear away holly and other brush growth from the woodlands.
- 18/148 Village clean-up – Residents Emma Lawrence and Geoff Davis joined in to discuss the idea of holding our own version of The Great British Spring Clean. It was agreed that Sunday 29 April would be an appropriate day with a concentration on a selected number of areas and that Mrs Lawrence and Mr Davis would take the lead with support from the Parish Office as requested.
- 18/149 Widmore Pond Wall – the Parish Clerk circulated a proposal from Up and Under Ltd to carry out a visual inspection of the wall for a fee of £1,895.00 which was approved unanimously as a matter of urgency.
- 18/150 Matters for future agendas. Decoration of Village Hall walls with pictures.

Next meeting: Monday 19 March 2018 at 20.00.

Chairman:

Dated:

Attachment A

REPORT TO SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL FEB 2018 FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND KEY PART OF BUDGET PROPOSALS

A key proposal for the upcoming Oxfordshire County Council Budget is to have a Councillor Priorities Fund – all County Councillors will have a £15k fund each to support parish council Highways needs and community group projects. In addition, the county council is choosing to prioritise children's social care with £1.9m extra being put in to this service. Overall this means £8.5m is being added to the budget for children's social care in 2018/19. This follows the central government announcement in late December that it would allow councils to raise council tax by an additional 1% primarily to address financial pressures in children's social care. Earlier in December the council had proposed a 1.99% Council Tax, with an additional 3% precept for adult social care bringing the total proposed rise to 4.99% the same as last year. The additional 1% that has now been allowed would take the total rise for 2018/19 to 5.99%, with a proposed 2.99% rise in 2019/20. Other calls on funding include the local government national pay settlement where a total of £2.9m extra is required over 2018/19 (£1.4m) and 2019/20 (£1.5m) for staff pay across all of its services, including employees such as librarians, care workers for vulnerable children and adults, highways staff, trading standards, the Registration Service etc. OCC is able to fund this from reserves over these two years. The Budget proposals were approved at Full Council on February 13th.

GROWTH DEAL

As detailed in the December report, the Oxfordshire Growth Board* has reached an outline Housing and Growth Agreement (Growth Deal) with Government. This will see an additional £215m of investment over the next five years to build infrastructure, support the delivery of new homes and boost economic productivity across the county. This breaks down as: £30m pa for five years for infrastructure; £60m for affordable homes across the county; and £5m to develop a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP). The Board wants the five-year deal to be the first stage in a sustained partnership with Government to secure the ongoing investment needed to deliver properly planned growth and economic development over the coming years. This will support councils to achieve the ambition of 100,000 new homes across the county over the period 2011-2031, as identified through the 2014 countywide Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Local Plans. During the period of development all planning authorities will have their five-year land supply requirement reduced to a three-year land supply with that condition in place for the first three years of the new JSSP. The Growth Deal is coming to the stage that it will soon go through the six councils' democratic processes to be agreed.

*The Oxfordshire Growth Board comprises the six councils: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, together with the county's Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).

CARILLION: OCC AGREES EXIT DEAL AFTER COMPANY COLLAPSE

OCC has formally terminated its contract with Carillion LGS Limited effective from 1 February 2018, following the collapse of the parent company. This brings forward the already agreed end of the contract set for the end of June 2018. OCC made a net payment of £10.65m to Carillion to cover work already completed as part of the final settlement to end the contract with the company. Carillion provided services on behalf of OCC including school meals and cleaning; maintenance of council buildings; property services, and building work such as school extensions. Carillion staff in OCC's maintained schools who contracted their services via OCC will be transferred to OCC under staff transfer arrangements known as 'TUPE', and services will continue as normal. Services previously provided by Carillion to the county council will continue through a mix of bringing staff in-house (e.g. school meals, cleaning); continuing with suppliers (mainly catering), and working with existing sub-contractors (mainly construction and property services). Like every other Carillion customer, OCC is now working out the most cost-effective way to complete work left unfinished by Carillion. OCC will now take over direct responsibility for commissioning future construction work and service delivery. County council officers are reviewing the uncompleted works under the Carillion contract and talking to sub-contractors about the best way forward. Carillion sub-contractors and suppliers will be financially exposed to the collapse in Oxfordshire, as is happening across the country. OCC is establishing a process to assess, on a case-by-case basis, the impact on companies in the Carillion supply chain involved in providing county council services such as building maintenance.

NEW FUNDING BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN

Extra funding to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASCs) living in Oxfordshire has been received by the county council. A government grant worth £335,000 has been awarded to help strengthen the support services available to UASCs over the next two years. It is part of a wider national funding announcement of £29million. OCC has the same responsibilities for looking after UASCs arriving in the county as it does for all other children and young people in care. Young asylum-seekers are among the most vulnerable groups in society – often with no connections or family in the UK, little spoken English and having made long and traumatic journeys. The new money is not for covering the cost of care placements themselves, but for additional support to help UASCs adjust to living in the county, and integrate with local communities. The council currently looks after 52 UASCs. These young people have predominantly travelled from Afghanistan, Albania and Eritrea.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SONNING COMMON

THIRD READING BRIDGE

The Chair of Highmoor PC convened a meeting of southernmost parishes on 18th January at Highmoor village hall in order that affected parishes could review the current situation. In addition to myself, speakers included the OCC officer allocated to monitor the project and John Howell MP. The meeting was very well attended and all attendees said they found it very useful. The Henley Standard gave it good coverage. The Minutes have been circulated by the Highmoor parish clerk.

WOOD LANE PUDDLES FIXMYSTREET REF: 766719

After many months of email exchanges with officers, I am pleased to say this matter is now being addressed and I have received a note of thanks from one of the complainants.

FLOODING ON HORSEPONDS ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON FMS REF: 820017

At the last meeting, I advised that I had intervened due to the lack of action on this matter and that the OCC Drainage Engineer was now looking at the possibility of constructing a new soakaway in the allotment gardens, subject to permission being granted and the results of a soakage test. A further review meeting took place earlier today and I have just been advised that the proposal now is to place an underground soakaway just inside the allotment car park. Officers would like the provisional agreement of the Parish Council to proceed and would welcome any questions.

Attachment B District Councillor's Report February 2018

Housing Matters.

Councils adopt strategy to help meet the challenge of delivering new homes

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have adopted a new strategy which sets out how they will meet the significant challenge of delivering thousands of new homes over the next 14-16 years.

The number of new homes proposed in each district is set out in the councils' respective adopted and emerging local plans. The councils' new Joint Housing Delivery Strategy will work alongside the respective local plans to guide how these new homes will be delivered, in line with infrastructure, and ensure that the types of homes provided meet the various needs of our communities.

In adopting the new strategy, the councils are taking on an 'enabler' role to ensure that the required number of new homes can be delivered, which are also of the right type to meet local need.

The councils adopted the Joint Housing Delivery Strategy following a public consultation on a draft version of the strategy in 2017.

Planning update

Brownfield land register

We have published details of all brownfield development sites in our districts that have full or outline planning permission. The register also includes sites that may be considered as appropriate for residential development.

Broadband update

Little Wittenham, and Waterperry are among the latest villages getting improved broadband services as part of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire project, which we're helping to fund in both districts. If you'd like to know more, see the update for South.

New project to help people with diabetes

We are supporting a new countywide project to help people with diabetes to be more active and we'd like your help to spread the word.

Go Active Get Healthy aims to help the 28,000 people in Oxfordshire who are registered as having diabetes.

Adults with diabetes can sign up to receive coaching sessions, subsidised activities and advice on managing their condition.

Support for athletes

Budding athletes in your area could benefit from up to £1,250 of funding thanks to our leisure partner GLL.

The GLL Sport Foundation could also provide support for athletes with training membership access to more than 300 venues across the UK and give them access to physio and injury rehabilitation.

Athletes can apply via the GLL Sport Foundation website until 20 February.

Work experience 2017 Reminder

Since January 2017 we have provided work experience for 39 students and young people to learn about how we work and gain some new valuable skills. Every single one of them said in their feedback that they enjoyed their placement and that they would recommend it.

We currently have opportunities for work experience for year ten students during term time for 2018 and, during February half term, other art workshop projects at Cornerstone, so if you know of any schools or young people who might benefit, or if you want more information on our work experience programme, contact Karen Tolley.

Rail vision and consultation - Reminder

Strategic vision for our railways The government is setting out a vision for the country's railways, which is likely to have an effect on our districts - you can read more about it here.

<https://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=bd2cbe2854&e=eda6ce4f57>

Great Western Railway consultation

The Department for Transport is also setting out its proposals for improving train services on the Great Western rail network after the current franchise with GWR ends. They are running a consultation to help identify passengers most pressing priorities for improvements from 2020 onwards.

South Oxfordshire Business action plan launch

We've officially launched the South Oxfordshire Business and Innovation Strategy Plan 2017 to 2020 to support and boost the wide variety of businesses in our area.

The plan has four main actions:

introducing superfast broadband

helping businesses to find sufficient space to allow their organisations to grow and succeed

supporting businesses with skills and employment issues

improving business support and communication

Hotels still failing to challenge potential Child Sexual Exploitation

Hoteliers in South Oxfordshire are still failing to spot the dangers of child sexual exploitation (CSE), a recent test operation has revealed.

New Heads of Service

The following Heads of Service have been appointed effective from the 5th February: -

Head of Corporate Services – Adrianna Partridge

Head of Development and Regeneration – Suzanne Malcolm

Head of Housing and Environment – Liz Hayden

Council Tax Increases

This year the average council tax across the district has risen to £1,811.33. This is an increase of 5.86% on last year's rate: -

OCC £1,426.19

Police £182.28

SODC £116.24

Avg Parish tax £86.62

Total £1,811.33

Sonning Common £77.68

Shiplake £22.89

Harpsden £22.61

Binfield Heath £38.45

Eye & Dunsden £99.17