

Sonning Common Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Sonning Common Parish Council held on Monday 18 March 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Mrs Lewis (Chairman); Mrs Diwell; Mr Giles; Mr Howe; Mr Kedge; Mr Rinta-Suksi; Mr Rawlins; Mr Shanagher and Mr Stoves. Also: Mr Collings (Parish Clerk), Mrs Varnes (Deputy Parish Clerk) and Mr Axel Fithen (Henley Standard).

- 19/136 Apologies for absence: Mr Fort. No declarations.
- 19/153 Public Question Time under Section 30 of Standing Orders – none.
- 19/154 Police Matters – no specific report.
- 19/155 Minutes of previous meetings:
 - 155.01 Finance Committee on 6 March 2019 - presented and approved.
 - 155.02 Planning Committee on 18 February & 4 March 2019 - presented and approved.
 - 155.03 Parish Council meeting on 18 February 2019 - presented and approved.
- 19/156 County Councillor's Report attached as Appendix A was presented and discussed.
- 19/157 District Councillor's Report attached as Appendix B was presented and discussed.
- 19/158 Parish Clerk's Report – noted.
- 19/159 Memorial Hall Field Working Party (MHFWP) – members were briefed on progress being made towards the planning application needed for site levelling etc.
- 19/160 Village Centre Working Party (VCWP) – members were briefed by Mr Howe on progress being made in locating titles to all properties that may be affected and in finding experts to take on Ben Hamilton Baillie's work after his sad demise.
- 19/161 Environment Working Party – Mr Stoves advised that activity will pick up later in Spring.
- 19/162 Neighbourhood Plan Revision – Members were advised of the considerable work being carried out.
- 19/163 It was resolved to confirm that Ros Varnes and Mark Weston remain enrolled in the Oxfordshire Local Government Pension Scheme and that Becky Jenkins should be enrolled from 1 April 2019.
- 19/164 FISH update – Mr Clive Mills described how FISH activities have grown and become more varied for which they will apply for a grant in the new financial year.
- 19/165 Matters for future agendas.

Meeting closed at 21.10. Next meeting: Monday 15 April 2019 at 20.00.

Chairman: Dated:

Appendix A

REPORT TO SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2019

FROM CLLR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

GENERAL OCC REPORT

COUNCIL BUDGET PASSED ON 12TH FEBRUARY

1. COMMUNITIES TO BE OFFERED HELP WITH YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Provision across Oxfordshire was given a £1 million boost by the Conservative Independent Alliance at the budget-setting meeting on February 12th. Young people and their families in Oxfordshire will now benefit from improved community-run youth services. Youth groups will be invited to bid in to a £1m fund over two years, with encouragement to find match-funding from their local communities. Details of the application process will be published shortly.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL TO INVEST IN SCHOOLS, TRANSPORT AND STREETLIGHTING

Other measures that form part of the approved Budget include highway improvements, new school buildings and energy-efficient street-lighting thanks to a £1 billion investment over the next ten years. However, the county council is also warning that funding pressure on services remains as demand for social care for vulnerable children and adults continues to grow and continued financial prudence is required to meet those demands.

Transport schemes across the county will improve journeys for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. Nearly £20m will be invested to increase the provision of school places for children with special needs in the county, including rebuilding Northfield School in Oxford with more pupil places. Capital funding is for large one-off projects such as highway repairs or building work to assist the council meet its obligations, such as creating extra school places – as opposed to the normal revenue budget which covers funding for the costs of day-to-day services. Most of the funding for capital programme is made up of government funding and developer contributions, which cannot be used for any other purpose.

The capital programme includes a £41m street-lighting improvement programme with traditional lanterns being replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting, saving money in the long-run.

Pressure on funding for day-to-day council services continues as the council increases funding to support of Oxfordshire's most vulnerable children and adults. To make sure the growing number of children at risk of abuse and neglect are protected, the children's social care budget has increased annually. It was £46m in 2011 and is forecast to be £95m in 2022/23 – more than doubling in ten years. The council's budget for adult social care will increase by £5m in 2019/20, with further annual increases reaching nearly £6m by 2022/23.

The planned redesign of the council around the changing needs of residents and communities will maintain or improve services, with investment in digital technology enabling us to save money in the process – OCC is now reviewing the digital technology needed to make the council run more effectively and efficiently, including improving customer service by making it easier to access services online. The council has identified savings of £50m from changing the way services are delivered and has already started implementing these changes, including improving online 'self-service' HR and finance systems used by staff. As part of the partnership with Cherwell District Council, legal services for the two councils are being joined up.

INVESTMENT IN REPAIRING OXFORDSHIRE'S ROADS CONTINUES

OCC will be spending an extra £13m on capital funding on road maintenance in the coming financial year. This is on top of its existing £18.5m programme of work and follows last year's additional £12m boost which saw more than 37 extra miles of road being resurfaced through a range of methods including surface dressing and micro-asphalting – both of which make road surfaces waterproof and extend their life. This year's additional money will be spent across Oxfordshire on resurfacing, drainage, bridge repairs and footways. One of the major projects confirmed for later this year will see the A40 from Thornhill to Headington Roundabout (inbound) resurfaced, benefitting thousands of road users every day.

HEALTHWATCH OXFORDSHIRE PUBLISHES FINDINGS OF DAYTIME SUPPORT REVIEW

OCC's Adult Social Care department asked the health and social care watchdog to undertake an independent review of the services after major changes in how they were delivered in October 2017. On that date, OCC's Health and Wellbeing Centres and Learning Disability Daytime Support Services were replaced with a new Community Support Service. The services are located in Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Didcot, Oxford, Wallingford, Wantage and Witney. They provide daytime support for both older people and those with learning disabilities. The review focused specifically on user experiences during

the process of change. The service has been working hard since the launch to ensure that people are at the centre of all service developments. The review found that people said that daytime support made a difference to their lives and they valued it for: social connection and friendships; meaningful activity; independence; reducing isolation and loneliness; and supporting carers to continue caring.

DELAYED TRANSFER OF CARE IMPROVEMENTS

The latest published figures on people who are unnecessarily in hospital while they await care have been published. The figures for December 2018 show that on average 85 Oxfordshire residents had their hospital discharge delayed. This is five fewer than in November and 20 less than the same time last year. Oxfordshire's improvement remains better than nationally. In the last 12 months delays have dropped by 19% locally compared to 11% nationally.

SPECIFIC REPORT FOR SONNING COMMON

PARKING IN ELM COURT

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, but I am exploring the option of creating an ambulance bay. However, I am doubtful that this route will 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>

READE'S LANE, SONNING COMMON - S278 SITE ACCESS OPTIONS - SON 3/MHF

Michael Deadman MCIHT, Transport Development Control Lead Officer, responded to Cllr Rawlins email of 15 February. Please advise if further assistance is required from me with regard to this matter.

Appendix B

P Harrison's District Councillor Report MARCH 2019

Councillor Grants

Last year I received 2 requests for Councillor Grants. Both I've approved: -

- FISH volunteer centre £2,500 for promotion work.
- Harpsden phone box library £500

Government Funding

In last Tuesday's spring statement, it was announced our bid for funding from the government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) has been approved. The two councils were part of a £218 million bid approved by government.

This will provide funding for the following four transport schemes in South Oxfordshire: -

- A Didcot Science Bridge on the A4130 – going over the railway line and Didcot A Power station site and joining the A4130 Northern Perimeter Road
- Improvements to the A4130 from the Milton Interchange by making it a dual carriageway
- A new river crossing at Culham
- A Clifton Hampden bypass.

The new river crossing at Culham will allow us to regenerate Berinsfield as this was the major stopper to this project due to expected increase in traffic volumes.

The government also announced £81 million of investment in state-of-the-art laser technology at Harwell. This will go towards a national "Extreme Photonics Application Centre". The Government have also set aside £60 million to ensure the JET programme at Culham Science Centre continues to receive the funding it needs to continue its ground-breaking research into fusion energy.

Better Broadband

On Friday 15th both David Bartholomew and I attended the celebration for the 600th Superfast broadband cabinet in Chinnor. David in his capacity as OCC Cabinet member for Finance and myself as Cabinet member for Development and Regeneration. The two departments responsible for funding delivery of broadband in South Oxfordshire.

South and Vale Business Awards

On Friday 15th I opened our first South and Vale Business awards at Williams F1 conference centre in Grove. There were some amazing businesses awarded. In South Oxfordshire Bremont were joint winners of the Large Business of the Year award, a prize they shared with Reaction Engines from Abingdon.

HR Wallingford won the Established Innovation Award and Howbury Park won the Business Space of the year award.

Oxfordshire Special Needs school quiz.

On Monday 18th I went to support Bishopwood school who were completing in the Oxfordshire Special Needs Schools quiz. This quiz is run by trading standards and teaches the children a number of safety points. Although they didn't win they were very close until the last round. All the children who took part received a backpack with an Easter egg and a number of colouring books and pens. I must admit the questions were very challenging and I'm glad we weren't asked to answer some of the more difficult ones. Maybe next year. This was the 20th year of this competition and Bishopswood have won it twice in the past.

OVO Energy's women's tour.

Yesterday SODC agreed to part fund the OVO Energy's women's tour (cycle race). This is the premier women's cycle race and will go through South Oxfordshire, the Vale and then finally West Oxfordshire to finish at Blenheim Palace. As yet at 10am this morning they announced Stage 3 (Wednesday June 12 2019) will start in South Oxfordshire and finish in Blenheim. It hasn't yet been announced but it's expected to start in Henley and possibly come through Sonning Common prior to going to Watlington, Wallingford and Didcot before existing into the Vale. Although Henley will probably be closed for most of the day the road closures for the route are normally only 20 minutes long, unlike that terrible Triathlon which closed the roads around Peppard all day.

The one advantage of having the race is OCC will need to fix the roads prior to the event. The event will be coming to Oxfordshire for the next 3 years and each of the 6 councils will be paying the same amount for each year. This event is very popular and generates a lot of visitors, When Warwickshire had it last year it added an extra £2m to their economy.