

**Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council
Ashbury Village Hall
Monday 11th November 2019 at 7:30pm
Minutes**

Present: Cllrs C Davies (Chairman), P Cowx, A Alvarez Nishio, A Reynolds, A Smythson
9 Members of the public.

ITEM

53 To receive apologies for absence

County Cllr Y Constance, District Cllrs S Howell, E Ware, Cllr C Prentice, Clerk L Evans

54 To receive any declarations of Personal, or Personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting

None

55 To take reports from District and County Councillors

No report submitted by County Cllr Y Constance

District Cllr Report Emailed by District Cllr E Ware, presented by CD (attached to minutes in appendix 1) There was discussion on the Vale's festival grants that may assist the Fete sub-committee. AAN to forward details to the sub-committee.

AAN

56 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Monday 9th September 2019

Approved

57 To address matters arising from the previous meeting

- a) **Missing bollards** – CD to progress with County Councillor Y Constance CD
- b) **Funding Shopperbus** – County Cllr Y Constance had previously confirmed funding would cease at the end of fiscal year – **complete**
- c) **“Turn it off” campaign** Cllr A Alvarez Nishio confirmed a meeting had been arranged – **complete**
- d) **Trees on Ashbury Hill**- Cllr C Davies advised that following a further site visit, SSE have decided to take no further action is necessary – **complete**
- e) **Misuse of waste bins**- Approach to be made to R&C to determine if waste from bin at bus shelter can be emptied in their commercial bins.
- f) **Possible non-compliance with planning consent**- District Cllr E Ware had advised that enforcement officer had been instructed but had yet to visit
- g) **Condition of Upper Mill Pond**- Some work had been done to clear silt from sluice-gate but after monitoring, flow had not improved, and surface & surrounding area remain a cause for concern – Cllr C Davies to report back to District Cllr E Ware & environmental officer EW/
CD
- h) **Draft budget**- Cllr A Reynolds and Cllr C Davies have completed draft and key points dealt with in 65-below – **complete**
- i) **Grasscutting at St Mary's**- See item 57a-below – **complete**
- j) **Condition of verges following BT works**- Cllr C Davies has reported to BT, but it would appear any fault lies with sub-contractor – Cllr C Davies to progress – ongoing CD

57a Grasscutting at St Mary's- Cllr C Davies confirmed that a figure had been discussed with PCC that met the council's budget provision, but which enabled the PCC to use their own contractor. CD

The PC unanimously agreed an amount of £1,560 for 2020/21 payable in two instalments to coincide with receipt of the parish precept, the arrangement to be subject to review in late autumn 2020. CD to amend draft 'heads of agreement'

58 Introduction of new Councillor

- **To Co-opt new council member**

Cllr Alan Smythson was introduced to the meeting and in turn provided a short background statement.

AS

Cllr A Smythson was welcomed to the council in his role as Volunteer Liaison Officer, and has already made a significant contribution to defining the role and how to move the volunteer effort forward, and is now tasked with developing the structure and putting it into effect.

To address some comments made by residents, Cllr C Davies pointed out that while Cllr A Smythson had resided in the areas for a relatively short time he nevertheless qualified by being on the parish electoral role.

59 **To take questions and comments from Councillors**

Cllr A Alvarez Nishio made those present aware of the display items provided following the earlier 'Resilience & Emergency Planning' workshop. Notes from the Resilience Workshop and links to useful sites will be put on the Ashbury Website and noticeboards when we have received final details from OCC.

AAN

60 **Shopperbus Update**

Given that funding will cease at the end of the fiscal year, the council are actively engaged in pursuing alternative solutions, namely;

- a) A replacement but parish specific service funded entirely by PC
- b) A fortnightly service funded by the PC and supplemented by a 'social-shopping club' with volunteers shopping online for users.
- c) As a] but funding shared by OCC [75%] & APC [25%]
- d) Discontinue the service and rely instead on volunteer transport
- e) Acquire a similar bus with grant funding operated by volunteers

The latter is likely to be the long-term solution with vehicle purchased and part-maintained by OCC, driven by volunteers, which would also enable other usage – e.g. as a service to/fro Shrevenham.

It can at least be confirmed that OCC bus-passes will be recognised/accepted on either service.

Meetings are being arranged with OCC and Uffington PC [that successfully operate a service similar to e] above] to explore these options further –

61 **Update on Planning issues**

Cllr C Davie advised the meeting that all planning applications were being reviewed and commented on by the Neighbourhood Plan Group [NPH, a sub-committee tasked with, amongst other things, implementing the policies of the ANP on planning matters. The new group is chaired by Yoshi Nishio, and the meeting was encouraged to visit the Ashbury website to review the quality of the planning responses made to date.

- **P19/V1678/FUL** : Proposed Dwelling adjacent to Hillfurlands, Walnut Trees Hill
Application still under consideration despite 'target decision date' being 01/10/19
- **P19/V1860/HH** : Resubmission of previously approved "Erection of a side extension" at Barkside, Station Road - **Permission Granted**
- **P19/V2565/FUL** : Change of Use at Westlands, Idstone Road-Consultation ends 21/11/29 response being prepared.

62 **Other Planning Matters**

- **The construction of a new road, to link the A419 Commonhead Roundabout to the proposed New Eastern Villages (NEV) development including improvements to the existing Commonhead Roundabout and Pack Hill, new junctions with Pack Hill, The Marsh and Wanborough Road, new footway/cycleway and associated earthworks, drainage works and landscaping-** Response in preparation

63 **Update from Village Green Committee**

Report presented by E Derrington (Attached to minutes in appendix 2)

The key items arising were:

- a] the sub-committee have made the contractor aware of the issues requiring remedial action and such work will be completed in the spring or earlier if weather permits. To this

end the contractor has agreed that the council retain a substantial portion of the invoice value pending completion

b] the sub-committee are now actively seeking sponsorship for the tree-trail specimens and their success too date means that the first planting, will take place as part of a festive celebration to be held on 1st December – more details to follow shortly

AAN

Cllr A Alvarez Nishio sought to clarify that the target sponsorship figure was just that, and the VG committee would be happy

- 64 Village Green Access Update-** The majority of work has been completed, but this is one of the areas still to be 'finished off'. Given the community spirit exhibited by residents of the close, E Derrington was asked to make the contractor aware that this was a priority task.

65 Finances to Note

Attached to minutes in appendix 3

Section	Income	Expenditure
Grass Cutting		-£642.00
ANP	0	0
General	+£4508.95	-£445.25

Budget Update

Cllr C Davies advised that a number of changes had been made to the structure of the budget to ensure that earmarked funds would be available to meet the future demands on the parish's resources, namely:

- i. Clerk's hours increased from 15 to 22.5 per month with effect from 1 October 2019
- ii. An earmarked reserve for parish maintenance of £5,000 to be established from general reserves.
- iii. An initial transfer of £1,750 from the projected 2019/20 surplus as a first instalment of the S106 replenishment fund for the future maintenance of the village.
- iv. Old Churchyard maintenance – 57a above refers
- v. Salt Bin, Wixes Piece – approved in previous fiscal year, to be sourced immediately
- i] – v] above can be achieved within a balanced budget meaning that provisionally the only increase to that of 2019/20 will be for inflation at CPI – currently some 3%. The exception to this would be any provision to maintain the Shopperbus – see below.

AAN

The provisional budget for 2020/21 was unanimously approved.

iv.-Provision for 2020/21 shopperbus funding contribution

The most likely solution for 2020/21 is likely to be that described at 60c]-above meaning that the APC contribution would be 25% of the cost of a parish specific service – i.e. some £1,415.

Thereafter it is likely to be as 60e]-above, with the running costs share between OCC, with the potential of additional income through private hire [The Uffington service already benefits in this way]. The cost to the parish is anticipated to be comparable to the 2020/21 figure and it was unanimously agreed that, subject to final approval the precept could in principle be raised by a total of 20% to accommodate inflation and the likely contribution to running the service

66 Agenda Diary

In the clerk's absence this it has been deferred to the next meeting, Cllr A Reynolds to liaise with clerk

AR/L
E

67 Correspondence

- **18/10/19- Friends of the Ridgeway- Traveller camped on the Ridgeway National Trail**
Traveller camped on Ridgeway – Cllr C Davies advised that having contacted the owner of the land on which he is actually parked, he has no objection to the traveller being there, not least because he acts as 'watchman'. Cllr C Davies to respond to complainant accordingly

CD

- **26/10/19- Letter regarding erection of fence onto open field next to Wixes Piece**
Prior correspondence with HM Land Registry [HMLR] was presented at the meeting which highlights the ambiguity surrounding the actual boundary. Both the APC title deeds and that of the neighbouring property show the boundary to be within the original fence-line but without specifying its location. As a consequence the location of the actual boundary should, accordingly to HMLR best practice, be determined by mutual agreement.

The APC understands that the fence is being constructed by the owner of the adjacent property, and too date, no attempt has been made by them to discuss the fence and/or its location. APC have written to the owners requested that they cease work and instead engage with APC with a view to settling the matter amicably. Cllr C Davies to respond to complainants making them aware of the current situation, and Cllr C Davies and Cllr C Prentice to progress the matter with the neighbouring property owner.

CD/
CP

- **31/10/19- Letter regarding chicken bones on village green as hazard to pets**
correspondent reports 'cooked chicken' bones being found on the Green on a number of occasions presenting a hazard to wildlife & pets – dogs in particular. That this is the third such incident suggests that it is probably not foxes, and a note will be included in the next newsletter

AAN

68 To take questions and comments from members of the public

P Smith advised that she had reported several pot-holes in Chapel Lane but too date no action had been taken. Cllr C Davies to bring this to the attention of County Cllr Y Constance and also ask for clarification of why the repairs on the B4507 have not been continued to Ashbury given the dangerous state of the road in place

CD/
YC

69 Any other Business

Clothes bank – member of the public queried whether a potential site had been found. Cllr A Alvarez Nishio to contact clerk and determine progress .

AAN
/LE

Church newsletter – R Simons advised that the deadline for the combined December/January issue was 27th November – Clerk and CllrA Alvarez Nishio to be aware.

Date of next meeting 13th January 2020

Meeting closed at 21:08pm

Laura Evans
Clerk to Ashbury Parish Council

District Councillors Report to Parish Councils

Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward

November 2019

Vale of White Horse District Council

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – The inaugural meeting of this Committee took place on 15 October 2019. The Committee has recommended that the Council should aspire to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and the District by 2045. In the first instance the Council should aim for a 75% reduction in carbon emissions in its own operations by 2025 and for the whole district by 2030.

Local Plan – Although the Vale has adopted Part 2 of the Local Plan there is still an issue with the plan for South Oxfordshire. As mentioned in our October Report the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has stepped in and instructed that for the time being their Plan is on hold. It is doubtful that any further progress will be made on this matter until after the General Election.

Planning – Construction on all four sites in Shrivenham continue. The access road from the A420 to Cross Trees Park is now fully operational.

The Financial Viability Assessment is still awaited for the Land South of Steeds Farm in Great Coxwell.

The public consultation on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway is still to be published by Highways England.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050 details are available on the Oxfordshire County Council website where there is a 30 page document entitled A vision for the Future.

Festival Grants from the Vale – The scheme is open all year round for application up to £1000. The Grants Team are available to advise on the suitability of applications. Contact details on the Vale website.

Civil Parking Enforcement – Elaine will be attending a presentation on 11 November and will report back in the December Report.

Thames Valley Police presentation to Council on 9 October. A copy of the Power point presentation will be circulated to Parish Councils under separate cover.

Additional Garden Waste w/c 11 November – Residents with Brown Bins may leave additional waste next to the bins in bin liners or sacks. **Please note** that trade waste sacks are not accepted.

Safe Places – The Safe Places Scheme provides people who may experience difficulties in public places with the assurance that support is available. In our area there are 7 places and these are all in Faringdon – Costa Coffee Marlborough Street, Information Centre, Library, Stay Grounded

Coffee Shop, Mustard Seed, Perry Bishop Estate Agents and the Leisure Centre. More details may be found on the Vale website.

General Election – Three public meetings are affected by the General Election details are as follows: Joint Scrutiny scheduled for 3 December has been cancelled. Cabinet meeting scheduled for 6 December has been moved to The Beacon at Wantage and the full Council meeting scheduled for 11 December has been moved to 18 December.

Election Jobs – If anyone is interested in helping to run the Election you may register your interest with the Elections Team – elections@southandvale.gov.uk Tel: 01235 422528 – more details on the Vale website.

Although we don't hold surgeries we are always available to assist with any issues

Simon Howell – 01793 784491 – simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Elaine Ware – 01793 783026 – elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Ashbury Parish Council Village Green Subcommittee Report November 2019

Since September:

- The main earth-moving work on the Village Green has been completed and the grass seed sown. The new grass is now growing and looking very good. We're grateful to everyone for respecting the "keep off the grass" signs.
- There are issues for the contractor to address with the surface of the playing field and the entrance from Malthouse Close, and he has asked us not to pay him in full until he has resolved them.
- We've now moved onto the second phase of the project, the Heritage Tree Trail, which we launched at a public meeting in the Village Hall on 16 September.
- The response has been very positive and we've received 15 offers of sponsorship so far – from individuals and from groups.
- We're going to dedicate trees to some of the people who supported us in the landscaping and playing field construction – the residents of Malthouse Close, the Lambert Family and Nina Prentice.
- We've also donated a tree to the Church as a prize in the Christmas Raffle.
- We shall be planting the first batch of trees on 1 December and inviting the community to join us to celebrate the event with hot drinks, mince pies and carols.
- The second planting will be in March 2020. In the meantime we'll be working to make sure we don't let the weeds grow, especially round the edge of the Green, and looking at what else we need (for example picnic tables) to make the Green a place for everyone to enjoy.

Liz Derrington
9 November 2019

Appendix 3

Name	Date	Total Gross	Detail
BGG	05/09/2019	-£216.00	Grass cutting invoice 436/19
Village Fete Committee	02/09/2019	£75.60	Donation
VOWH	06/09/2019	£4,159.35	Second half of Precept
HMRC	13/09/2019	£183.00	VAT Reclaim
DCK Accounting Solutions	16/09/2019	-£42.00	Payroll for QTR2
Laura Evans	16/09/2019	-£365.35	Clerks Pay QTR 2
Lloyds Bank	24/09/2019	£25.00	Compensation re- bank mandate
Lloyds Bank	24/09/2019	£6.60	Postal reimbursement for mandate
BGG	07/10/2019	-£426.00	Grass cutting invoice 551/19
Confidential Donation x2	14/10/2019	£750.00	Heritage Tree donation
Confidential Donation x2	15/10/2019	£300.00	Heritage Tree donation
Oxfordshire County Council	18/10/2019	£135.00	Trailing new app
Mrs Nishio	23/10/2019	-£17.90	Expenses for paper
Cotswold Turf Care	23/10/2019	-£960.00	Malthouse entrance
Cotswold Turf Care	23/10/2019	-£25,792.00	Village green
Royal British Legion	24/10/2019	-£20.00	Poppy wreath